

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1021

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, FR, UN

SUBJECT: RAISING OF NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

1. ROK CHARGE LO YOUNG CHAN TOLD EMBOFF JULY 4 THAT QUAI HAD RECENTLY CALLED HIM IN TO SAY THAT THE NORTH KOREAN COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS HAD QUITE SUDDENLY ACCEPTED THE FRENCH COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE DPRK PROPOSAL FOR RAISING RELATIONS. QUAI OFFICER SAID THAT GOF WISHED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO ROK THAT RELATICNS WERE NOT TO BE DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR. GOF HAD REFUSED MAJOR CHANGES AND COUNTERPROPOSAL PERMITTED ONLY HEAD OF MISSION TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND ONLY HIS OFFICIAL CAR TO HAVE CD PLATES; DPRK FLAG COULD BE FLOWN ONLY OVER OFFICIAL MISSION OFFICE ON NATIONAL DAY. WHEN LO SAID IT WAS BAD TIMING FOR GOF TO MAKE CHANGES JUST AT THIS TIME, QUAI OFFICIAL SAID THAT GOF HAD NO CHOICE SINCE DPRK CAME IN ACCEPTING GOF PROPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN UNACCEPTABLE FOR MONTHS. LO COMMENTED THAT DPRK WAS UPPING ITS OWN POLITICAL OFFENSIVE ON THE EVE OF THE UNGA.

2. JULY 5 LE MONDE EDITORIAL ON FRANCE AND THE TWO
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KOREAS DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE RECENT ECONOMIC CONSULTA-

TIVE GROUP ON KOREA AND NOTES THE LARGE FRENCH TRADE AND AID FOR SOUTH KOREA. IT THEN COMMENTS THAT THE ELYSEE HAD OFTEN EXPRESSED ITS DESIRE TO HAVE A BALANCED POLICY WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA. THE EDITORIAL ENDS WITH THE RHETORICAL QUESTION, "MUST PARIS GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF NOT HAVING A POLITICAL PLAN CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF A COUNTRY WHICH IS DESTINED TO BE REUNITED?" THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO UNGA PROBLEMS. THE CLEAR MESSAGE OF THE EDITORIAL IS THAT FRANCE SHOULD "BALANCE" ITS POLICY TOWARD KOREA BY A GREATER CONCERN FOR THE NORTH. SUCH EDITORIALS ARE OFTEN "INSPIRED" BY THE GOF, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME "GAULLIST" ELEMENTS IN THE GOF ARE ALREADY ARGUING THAT FRANCE SHOULD AGAIN BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF WESTERN CONTACTS WITH THE DPRK. THE MODEST RAISING OF GOF/DPRK RELATIONS COULD BE SEIZED UPON AS A GOOD FIRST STEP TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS. AT THE LEAST, SUCH VIEWS COULD COMPLICATE FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE ROK IN THE UNGA STRUGGLE.

3. TEXT OF EDITORIAL IS BEING POUCHED TO EA/K AND EMBASSY SEOUL.
RUSH

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